

MINUTES
SNOWMOBILE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
BJ's Restaurant
990 North Center Street
Gaylord, Michigan
June 21, 2005

Chairman Manson called the meeting of the Snowmobile Advisory Committee (SAC) to order at 10:57 a.m., Tuesday, June 21, 2005 in Gaylord, Michigan.

Members Present:

Bill Manson, Chair, Region III, Michigan Snowmobile Association, Grand Rapids
James Duke, Region I, Michigan Snowmobile Association, Munising
Bill Lucas, Region II, Michigan Snowmobile Association, Cadillac
Orville Olson, Representative at Large, Ludington
Lee Murray, Representative At-Large, Hopkins

Members Absent:

Elza Inman, Grant Sponsor, Brethren
Jack Nelson, Business Community, Greenville

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Randy Charles, USFS, Hiawatha

Staff Present:

Christie Pollock, Grants, Contracts and Customer Service (GCACS), Lansing
Richard Kennedy, Forest, Mineral and Fire Management (FMFM), Lansing
Jim Radabaugh, State Trails Coordinator, FMFM, Lansing
Capt. Curt Bacon, Law Enforcement Division (LED), Marquette
Lt. Creig Grey, LED, Lansing

The Snowmobile Advisory Committee, Department staff and public introduced themselves. **Mr. Manson** welcomed everyone.

MINUTES

The minutes of the April 19, 2005, Snowmobile Advisory Committee Meeting was acknowledged.

Motion by Mr. Duke to adopt the minutes of the April 19, 2005 meeting; seconded by Mr. Lucas. Motion for adoption unanimously carried.

Two agenda items were added under Committee Reports. Map committee update and emergency response.

Chocolay Township Legislative Request for Speed Limit – **Mr. Radabaugh** asked if SAC representatives from the Michigan Snowmobile Association (MSA) took issue back to their members.

Mr. Manson said they took it back to the executives to discuss and they thought there was adequate provision in the law for officers to write tickets, and did not approve of a speed limit. He said he was not directed to vote for a speed limit.

Greg Zybert, Chocolay Township Chief of Police commented that state and county police and the Chamber of Commerce all endorsed a speed limit. He said the speed limit will come eventually. He was hoping SAC would change their minds and make a recommendation for a speed limit. He also reported that snowmobile enthusiasts by survey, recommended a speed limit be put in place.

Motion made by Mr. Olson to endorse a 35 mile per hour speed limit seconded by Mr. Murray. Discussion continued.

Mr. Murray said he would like further discussion and tabled the motion. He thanked Chocolay Township Police Chief for coming.

Mr. Manson said there are ample provisions to write tickets. He feels the big sign would be effective and doesn't see the average snowmobiler exceeding those speeds. He asked Mr. Radabaugh if a sign could be placed there.

Mr. Radabaugh will contact Law Enforcement to see if the sign is allowed.

This item will be placed on the August 9 SAC agenda for action.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Gaylord-Cheboygan Workgroup – **Mr. Manson** reported that the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) did not rescind the director's order for non-motorized use on the Mullet Lake segment of the trail.

Mr. Radabaugh said a financial analysis on the trail connector would go to the NRC in December. Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) has suggested using the west side of the highway.

Map Committee- **Mr. Olson** reported that there are two or three bids coming in. If funding becomes available two maps would be produced, one for each peninsula. There would be no advertising on the maps. They would be available for no cost at business centers, snow shows and at MSA. Cost for publication would be around \$40,000.

Emergency Response Program- **Mr. Olson** said that sponsors should work with their county EMS and Sheriff Department to put program into effect. There is not a system that fits the whole state at this time.

Mr. Radabaugh said, per the management team units may work with trail sponsors and local agencies to post locally with written permission. The snowmobile program is not funding these emergency signs. State police rescue has said how helpful these signs are.

STAFF REPORTS

Snowmobile Workgroup – **Mr. Radabaugh** reported that the new handbook is complete and that workgroup recommendations and audit findings have been included. There are extensive changes in the handbook. Meetings are being held in Marquette on June 22, Newberry on June 23, Plainwell on June 27, Cadillac on June 28 and Gaylord on June 29 to rollout the handbook and discuss changes

Cost Analysis- **Mr. Kennedy** reported that the cost analysis is not complete. This information is used to determine fuel costs, and aids in determining equipment replacement recipients. He expects to have the cost analysis completed soon. The fuel cost, which will help determine the 'per mile' reimbursement rate for 2005-06, and equipment recipients should be determined by August 1.

International Association of Snowmobile Administrators (IASA) - **Mr. Kennedy** reported he attended the IASA conference in Salt Lake City Utah, May 31-June 4, 2005. There were three reports finalized: Renting Snowmobiles Successfully, a Snowmobile Safety CD and Guidelines for Snow Groomer Operating and Training. He will forward the reports to anyone who wishes to receive them. A future SAC agenda item using the report for groomer operating and training is possible.

Kawkawlin River Public Hearing- **Lt. Grey** stated snow and Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) law allows for special enforcement issues by, or on water. Lake Mitchell and Lake Cadillac currently have

prohibitions. Kawkawlin River is a frozen body of water issue. It is a ½ mile long stretch lined with sea walls and high traffic. It is near Saginaw Bay just north of Bay City. The first public meeting was in April. Meeting was to meet Administrative Rules process for a speed limit.

USDA Forest Service – Mr. Charles spoke of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for snowmobiling in the United States Forest Service (USFS) in Michigan. The MOU is under review by the Department, and will move forward for approval.

PUBLIC APPEARANCE

Tom Gallagher, St. Helen Snowpackers stated Kawkawlin was not a designated trail so the county didn't qualify for law enforcement dollars, and asked if they would be looking for funding. **Lt. Grey** said that they asked for funding but since they didn't have designated trails, they didn't qualify.

Bill Taylor, Lewiston Fun Ones stated he attended an Albert Township meeting. The township wants a permanent trailway and would like to blacktop for multiuse trail, with 100% on county or township property. The trail is 12 miles long with 3 miles in the town. The Township would like to partnership for the project. **Mr. Taylor** also asked of the location of the absent Department staff. **Mr. Radabaugh** informed Mr. Taylor that staff was attending Audit Training for Forest Certification.

Martin Cottle, Sault Snowmobile Association stated Governor Granholm has signed a \$4 million dollar snowmobile budget supplemental. Sault has an opportunity to buy an easement or private land. Asked where the Attorney General's (AG) decision is and could Sault purchase and be reimbursed later? **Mr. Radabaugh** said the AG has not given a decision yet and that he cannot promise the Sault club would be reimbursed.

Rolland Rieger, Preque Isle asked about his March reimbursement. **Ms. Pollock** said she would look into it and take care of it.

Don Mraz, St Helen asked about his March reimbursement and about keeping the reroute open because of the Pine Road Bridge being out. **Ms. Pollock** said she would look into the reimbursement and take care of it. **Mr. Radabaugh** said to keep the reroute in place in case the bridge is not repaired before the season.

NEXT MEETING

The next SAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 9, 10:30 a.m., BJ's Restaurant & Catering, 990 North Center Street, Gaylord, Michigan.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Public Present:

Greg Zyburt, Chocolay Township Chief of Police
Don Carroll, Ogemaw Hills Snowmobile Club
Bradley Potter, Western MI Snow Council
LaVern L. Longroy, Ogemaw Hills Sno Club
Tom Gallagher, St. Helen Snow Packers
Norm Theil, Trail Riders Snow Club, Baldwin
Jim Dingman, Trail Riders
Fran Coon, Trailriders
Dave Becker, St. Helen Snowpackers

Larry Marzean, Alpena Snowmobile Assoc.
John Houk, NE MI Snowmobile Council
Rodney M. Altman, PI Sno Trails
Don Mraz, St. Helen Snowpackers
Jim Barber, Jordan Valley Trails Council
Jerry Janeski, Alpena Snowmobile Assoc.
Allen Cottle, Sault Snowmobile Assoc.
Martin Cottle, Sault Snowmobile Assoc.
Rolland Rieger, Presque Isle Snow Trails
Bill Taylor, Lewiston Fun Ones
